

Outlook

The University of Maryland at College Park Faculty and Staff Weekly Newspaper • Volume 10 Number 19 • February 27, 1996

Board of Visitors Issues Recommendations

Despite the high level of uncertainty in state and federal funding, the university still has the potential to become one of the nation's preeminent public educational institutions, according to a report issued by the Board of Visitors.

Established in 1994, the Board is required to report annually on efforts by the state and the UM System in enhancing and maintaining the university as set forth in the 1988 Charter for Higher Education.

The Board presented its findings to representatives of the state legislative and executive branches Feb. 9 in Annapolis.

"The record of accomplishment of the university's faculty, staff and students over the past several years shows clear, and in many cases, dramatic improvement," according to the report. "At the same time, College Park has not yet reached the top rank of the nation's most distinguished research universities."

The Board again endorsed the vision of academic excellence which inspired enactment of the Maryland Higher Education Charter and called on those who hold positions of responsibility to take the measures required to transform the charter's vision into reality. Specific recommendations to achieve this include:

- The university should be granted an increase in funding at least equal to that of higher education in general in the next budget to ensure that its position as the state's leading nationally prominent public research university is not eroded. Particular attention should be paid to the issue of faculty salaries.

- The UM System, the Maryland Higher Education Commission, and the Department of Budget and Fiscal Planning should begin systematic collection of operating and capital budgets of peer institutions to evaluate and use this information in priority setting to progress toward meeting the state's legally mandated funding goal for the university.

- The state, the System and the university should develop a better public education strategy to inform citizens, political leaders and other external constituencies of recent successes at the university.

- The university should develop better mechanisms to seek research funding from sources other than the federal government. Additionally, the university should continue building its continuing education programs as a source of outreach to the state's citizens and as an alternative revenue source.

- Given the amount of non-state revenues generated by public higher education, the state should grant additional management flexibility to administrative practices at public higher education institutions with the goal of making higher education in Maryland more business-like and less government-like.

- The Board of Visitors will continue to encourage the exploration of name changes to sharpen the separate identity of the System administration from the university. If additional name changes are contemplated by the Board of Regents to reduce identity confusion, consideration should also be given to strengthening the separate identities of institutions within the System, particularly in College Park where three separate higher education entities reside in the same geographical region.

Parren Mitchell First Recipient of UM System's Frederick Douglass Award

Parren Mitchell, the first African-American admitted to the College Park campus, is the first recipient of the Frederick Douglass Award given by the University of Maryland System. A Feb. 20 ceremony at the State House in Annapolis marked the occasion, also the anniversary of Douglass's death.

The UMS Frederick Douglass Award, established by the Board of Regents, recognizes an individual who best exemplifies the humanitarian principles of fighting injustice and inequality against blacks and women to which Douglass dedicated his life. One of America's greatest orators and crusaders, Douglass was born into slavery in Maryland. He escaped to freedom in New England where he became a newspaper publisher, lecturer and author.

The Board of Regents selected Mitchell based on recommendations from a System-wide committee which reviewed nominees.

Mitchell overcame segregation in his fight to enter the university in 1950. He later entered politics when he was elected to Congress in 1970. During his eight-term congressional career, Mitchell served as whip-at-large and chair of the Congressional Black Caucus. In 1980, he founded the Minority Business Enterprise Legal Defense and Education Fund, an organization which fights discrimination against minority owned businesses.

Gov. Parris Glendening, UMS Chancellor Donald Langenberg, Board of Regents Vice Chair Benjamin Brown, Coppin State College President Calvin Burnett, Sen. Clarence Blount and



Parren Mitchell

Delegate Joanne Benson spoke at the award ceremony.

Glendening called attention to "the power of education as a force for freedom and justice" in the lives of Mitchell and Douglass, while Langenberg praised Mitchell for having the "courage to open doors that were kept shut too long by ignorance."

Langenberg also announced a UMS Frederick Douglass scholarship to be awarded at next year's ceremony. The scholarship will go to winners of a state-wide essay contest.

The Coppin State Choir performed at the ceremony which also featured the unveiling of a bronze plaque honoring the recipients of the UMS Frederick Douglass Award. The plaque was sculpted by Maryland artist Randall Craig and supported in part by Bell-Atlantic Maryland.

Travel Services Office Takes CQI on the Road and to the Skies

Anyone who has waited on eternal hold with an airline knows that making travel arrangements is rarely as enjoyable as the trip itself. But a team of university employees and administrators is working to make it less painful by implementing Pres. William E. Kirwan's plan for Continuous Quality Improvement (CQI).

The university's Travel Services office has had its own CQI team for nearly three years, and those involved have found that achieving change on an institutional level is slow and arduous—but highly rewarding.

"We spent a good 18 months on the front end just learning how to be able—on a daily, weekly, monthly basis—to try to make improvements," says Sue Kernan, corporate services administrator for Travel Services. According to Kernan, the office tries

each day to "reexamine ourselves, talk to somebody, make some incremental change."

"Our major objective is to consolidate and simplify and to eliminate things that don't serve us," she adds.

"For example, when one of our customers contacts us because they're confused about a process, we step back and try to look at the history: Why do we do it? How can we do it better? Do we have to do it at all? Not necessarily to do it faster, but to do the right thing."

The customer-client relationship is a rather amorphous concept for those who work for and deal with Travel Services, including any-

one who works for the university, the airlines, travel agencies and car rental companies. "Sometimes we're the customer and sometimes they're the customer to us. It goes back and forth," Kernan says.

The university works closely with two local travel agencies, Omega Travel and Travel-On. Kernan says that because of the CQI program, the university's relationship with these companies has changed for the better. "We include them more in our day-to-day decision making. They truly are partners now, with an equal voice, yet they're also vendors and, in a way, a university customer and supplier," Kernan explains. "They're a great resource of expertise, and we don't often need a big meeting to convene with them, but on an ongoing basis we say 'this is working' or 'this isn't working.'"

—continued on page 2

Notable

Dan Abell, physics department research associate in dynamical systems and accelerator theory, has won the American Physical Society's Award for the 1996 Outstanding Doctoral Thesis in Beam Physics.

Ralph Bennett, professor of architecture, and Bennett Frank McCarthy Architects Inc., recently received a Gold Seal Award from the National Council of Seniors Housing of the National Association of Home Builders. The awards are made annually to projects and buildings designed especially for older persons. Bennett and his fellow architects received one of four Gold Seal Awards for Bartholomew House on the grounds of St. Bartholomew's Catholic Church in Bethesda.

Mike Boyle, professor in the mathematics department, is a co-recipient of the second Hans Shneider prize of the International Linear Algebra Society. The prize was awarded for Boyle's work on the inverse spectral problem for nonnegative matrices.

Based on a proposal submitted to the National Rotorcraft Technology Center, the university's **Center for Rotorcraft Education and Research (CRER)** has been named one of three Rotorcraft Centers of Excellence for \$3.5 million over a period of five years. Begun in 1982 by the U.S. Army Research Office, the CRER, located in the department of aerospace engineering, has been awarded one of the three centers of excellence for the past 14 years. Eight faculty from aerospace engineering are actively involved in the program: **Inderjit Chopra**, director; **James Baeder**; **Roberto Celli**; **Alfred Gessow**, professor emeritus; **John Leishman**; **Darryll Pines**; **Anthony Vizzini**; and **Norman Wereley**.

Rita Colwell, president of the University of Maryland Biotechnology Institute, is one of 25 individuals selected as a fellow by the Association for Women in Science. The new award of AWIS fellow has been created to honor individuals who have demonstrated exemplary commitment to the achievement of equity for women in science and technology.

H. Dennis Drew has been elected a fellow of the American Physical Society for "his contributions to the study of the electrodynamic response of superconductors in magnetic fields, and collective effects in semiconductor heterostructures."

Marcus Franda, director of International Affairs, was recently elected to a three-year term on the Executive Committee of the Association of International Education Administrators (AIEA), the leading professional association in the United States for directors, deans and vice presidents of International Affairs. He is one of four directors elected by the 500-plus members of AIEA.

Franda joins a 10-member governing committee for the association, headed by Edward Mosely, director of the Capstone International Program Center at the University of Alabama.

The paperback edition of a book on children's literature written by **Anne Scott MacLeod**, professor of children's literature in the College of Library and Information Services and currently the acting director of the University Libraries, has just been released. In 1994, the University of Georgia Press published "American Childhood," MacLeod's book containing 14 essays on children's literature of the 19th and 20th centuries.

Travel Office Takes CQI on the Road and to the Skies

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Jennie Hendrickson is the university's account representative and office manager of Omega Travel in Greenbelt. "I think over the years we have developed a really friendly relationship with the university," says Hendrickson, who has worked on the Maryland account for nearly nine years. "I never feel adversarial at all. I feel like the travel agents in my office and the travelers that we work with are all on the same page. I know the university's travel policies inside and out."

Hendrickson says she has noticed significant changes in the way her company does business as a result of CQI, including the implementation of an online travel information service. "Now everything is so streamlined. Everybody knows what is expected of them. I hate surprises, especially when somebody's in the air."

John Emanuelson is director of client services for Travel-On in Silver Spring and has been the university's account representative for approximately six years. "There has been a change in our focus," Emanuelson says. "We're not just issuing tickets. That's not what our job is all about now. We send out a fully informed traveler. From our side, it's changed the way we structure new employees to the [university] account." For example, Travel-On holds special training classes to teach these employees about university travel policies and the various ways to help customers get the best travel arrangements at the lowest fares.

Kernan says that while all these CQI processes are beneficial, the bottom line is to please the customer. "To a traditional campus customer like a professor, there's a very different focus. Their focus is getting their research done, so the details and logistics of travel arrangements should be invisible underpinnings," she says. "To the travel agency, their focus is having a very efficient process that books certain tickets, delivers them, turns them around in a certain time frame so that they can make a profit."

One lesson the Travel Services team learned during a snowstorm, is that technology is not the answer to all problems. "We have certain deadlines, and if you don't get your expense statements in by that deadline then people don't get paid until the next pay cycle, so you lose two weeks," Kernan explains. "One conscientious business manager got hold of me at home—when the city was paralyzed and we were

closed—and wanted to drive to my house with those documents. That was the beginning of the drive-through documents box that we put up."

Kernan says the simple metal drop box, located outside the Travel Services offices in the Patuxent Building, allows customers to deliver their travel documents and related administrative forms at their convenience. Additionally, customers can call Expense Check at 405-4242 to find out when their reimbursements will be available using a touch-tone phone.

"Some questions are better answered by a human being, and some questions are better answered immediately even without the human being. If it's a 'yes or no, am I getting reimbursed, when and how much,' that can be answered by touch-tone phone," Kernan says. "However, there are some things that are much better handled person-to-person."

According to Kernan, CQI initiatives have had real, positive effects on the way Travel Services does business. For example, now when a customer has a problem, travel staff members take more individual responsibility for seeing the problem through to a solution. "What we're working toward now is 'airline-style service' where ideally you get the job done and then call," she says.

CQI has also helped to improve morale among staff members. "The [travel] staff approaches things more as colleagues of departments rather than as servers of departments," Kernan says. "It goes both ways, and that's huge as far as mutual respect of each other's differences of knowledge and differences of need sets, rather than our travel staff being treated as clerks. I think that they treat people more professionally and are treated more professionally, and therefore communication is better."

Weaning staff and customers off the old routine and into the new hasn't been entirely smooth-sailing, Kernan says, but if it were easy, would it be as meaningful? "Embracing confusion is part of the process; looking for it and enjoying it and going with it, rather than trying to define where you're headed," she says. "I hate to use the cliché, 'it's a cultural change,' but the behavior pattern within our unit and among those customers who are part of the game is different now. It's just the way we are."

—MEREDITH TCHERNIAVSKY

University Plays Part in Space Mission

A bold experiment linking the Tethered Satellite System (YTSS-1R) with the U.S. Space Shuttle Columbia may answer some fundamental questions in physics and pave the way for novel use of tethered systems in space.

YTSS-1R is the primary payload for the Columbia mission which took place Feb. 22 from Cape Canaveral. An Italian satellite was connected to the Space Shuttle by an electrically conducting 20-kilometer-long tether. The satellite was then deployed upwards to a near vertical attitude.

Dennis Papadopoulos, professor of physics and astronomy, was selected as Principal Investigator for the mission in 1985, for theory and modeling. As part of the investigator group, he helped design the overall mission.

Papadopoulos will use data collected from the mission to produce quantitative physics and engineering performance models.

"In 1920 Irving Langmuir asked the question of what happens when a highly charged body is immersed in a magnetized plasma without walls," notes Papadopoulos. "This question started the science of plasma physics. With the YTSS-1R mission, we may answer that question and start a new era in space engineering."

The orbital motion through the terrestrial magnetic field induced voltages of up to five kilovolts between the two ends of the system. The tether, insulated along its length, was in electrical contact with conducting surfaces exposed to the ionosphere at each end of the system, enabling it to draw a current by attracting charged particles from the ambient plasma.

Scientists hope the experiment will lead to new uses of tethered systems, including power and thrust generation in space, powerful low frequency antennas, moving payloads from the space station and diagnosing low altitude atmospheric region.

UNIVERSITY OF MARYLAND AT COLLEGE PARK

Outlook is the weekly faculty-staff newspaper serving the College Park campus community.

Outlook

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Letters to the editor, story suggestions and campus information are welcome. Please submit all material at least two weeks before the Tuesday of publication. [For calendar submissions, please see boxed information on Calendar of Events page.] Send material to Editor, Outlook, 2101 Turner Building, through campus mail or to University of Maryland, College Park, MD 20742. Our telephone number is (301) 405-4629. Electronic mail address is outlook@umdacc.umd.edu. Fax number is (301) 314-9344.



Calendar of Events

February 27-March 7

Tuesday, February 27

University Theatre: "Othello" by William Shakespeare, 9:45 a.m., Tawes Theatre, \$10, \$7 students and seniors, \$5 student and senior groups (20+). 5-2201. (V/TTY)*

Art Exhibition: "The Seventh Annual Prince George's County Juried Exhibition," 11 a.m.-6 p.m., Parents Association Gallery, Stamp Student Union. 4-8493.

National Archives Film: "Against the Odds: The Artists of the Harlem Renaissance," noon, National Archives Auditorium at College Park. (202)501-5000.

Committee on Africa and the Americas: "Black Politics in Latin America," Juan Mosquera/Romero Rodriguez, 12:30-1:45 p.m., 1114 Woods Hall. 5-6835 or 5-7856.

Physics Department Lecture: "Cosmology at the Cross-Roads," Paul Steinhardt, professor of physics, University of Pennsylvania, 4 p.m., 1410 Physics Bldg.

Peer Computer Training Workshop: "Introduction to Windows 3.1," 6-9 p.m., 3330 Computer Science Center. 5-2941.*

Symphonic Wind Ensemble Concert: 8 p.m., Grand Ballroom, Stamp Student Union. 5-5548.

Wednesday, February 28

CPR Class: learn adult CPR and choking skills, 9 a.m.-noon, \$15 for students, faculty and staff, IRS forms accepted, must register in advance by calling 4-8103.*

Art Exhibition: "The Seventh Annual Prince George's County Juried Exhibition," 11 a.m.-6 p.m., Parents Association Gallery, Stamp Student Union. 4-8493.

Archival Resources Lecture: "Landmarks of P.G. County," 105 National Archives. (202) 501-5000.

University Theatre Discussion: Sounding the Humanities discussion of "Othello" with off-campus guest speaker, noon, 0154 Tawes Fine Arts Bldg. 5-2201.

Counseling Center Lecture: "Challenges to Undergraduate Education," Robert Hampton, noon, Shoemaker Bldg.

Committee on Africa and the Americas Lecture: "Making it Official: Creole Languages in the Caribbean," 3-5 p.m., Grand Ballroom Lounge, Stamp Student Union.

Committee on Africa and the Americas Symposium: "Born in the Americas: Languages of the African Diaspora," panel discussion 3-5:30 p.m., lecture 7:30 p.m., Grand Ball Room in Stamp Student Union. 5-6835 or 5-7856.

Astronomy Department Colloquia: Neal Evans, University of Texas, 4 p.m., 1113 Computer and Space Sciences Bldg. 5-0282.

Student Dance Association Show: informal showing of completed works and works in progress, 5 p.m., Dorothy Madden Theater.

Renaissance Lecture: "Crime and Princely Power in Mantua," David Chambers, Renaissance Studies, Warburg Institute, University of London, 5-6:30 p.m., co-sponsored by department of art history & archaeology and Center for Renaissance & Baroque Studies faculty, 2309 Art/Sociology. 5-6830.

Peer Computer Training Workshop: "Intermediate WordPerfect, Windows," 6-9 p.m., 3330 Computer Science Center. 5-2941.*

CPR Class: learn adult CPR and choking skills, 6-9:30 p.m., 3100E University Health Center, \$10 for students, faculty and staff, must register in advance in 2118 University Health Center. 4-8132.*

Committee on Africa and the Americas

Lecture: "The Language of Black America," Geneva Smitherman, department of English, Michigan State, 7:30 p.m., Grand Ballroom Lounge, Stamp Student Union.

Astronomy Department Colloquia: Felix Mirabel, CESR, 4 p.m., 1113 Computer and Space Sciences Bldg. 5-0282.

University Theatre: "Othello" by William Shakespeare, 8 p.m., Tawes Theater, \$10 standard admission, \$7 students and seniors.

CIBER and MEP Seminar: "The Republic of Georgia: Problems of Transition to a Market Economy," Teimuraz Beridze, University of Tbilisi, noon-2 p.m., Carriage House, Rossborough Inn. 5-0397.

Counseling Center Lecture:

"Opening the Door: Black Student Protest at the University of Maryland 1968-70," Hayward Farrar, noon, Shoemaker Bldg.

Astronomy Department

Colloquia: "Low Energy Accelerated Particle Interaction in Astrophysics and Solar Physics," Reuven Ramaty, 4 p.m., 1113 Computer and Space Sciences Bldg. 5-0282.

CPR Class: learn adult CPR and choking skills, 6-9:30 p.m., 3100E University Health Center, \$10 for students, faculty and staff, must register in advance in 2118 University Health Center. 4-8132.

Thursday, March 7

University Theatre presents the National Players production:

"Frankenstein" by Victor Gialanella, adapted from the novel by Mary Shelley, 9:45 a.m., Tawes Theatre, \$10 standard admission, \$7 students and seniors, \$5 student and senior groups (20+). 5-2201. (V/TTY)*

Institute for Systems Research

Lecture: "Nonlinear Process Control: On the Way to a Practical Discipline," Frank Allgower, Visitor, Advanced Process Modeling and Control Group, E.I. DuPont de Nemours & Company, 10-11 a.m., 2168 A.V. Williams Bldg. 5-6634.

Department of Materials and Nuclear

Engineering Seminar: "Faults in Microelectronics," Joey Bernstein, 4 p.m., 2110 Chemical and Nuclear Engineering Bldg.

Distinguished Lecturer Series: "Are We Taking Care of Our Democracy?" Roger Wilkins, 4:15 p.m., 0204 Architecture Bldg. 5-4930.

Peer Computer Training Workshop: "Introduction to Macintosh," 6-9 p.m., 3332 Computer Science Center. 5-2941.*

University Theatre Presents the National Players Production:

"Frankenstein" by Victor Gialanella, adapted from the novel by Mary Shelley, 8 p.m., Tawes Theatre, \$10 standard admission, \$7 students and seniors, \$5 student and senior groups (20+). 5-2201. (V/TTY)*

Calendar Guide

Calendar phone numbers listed as 4-xxxx or 5-xxxx stand for the prefix 314- or 405- respectively. Events are free and open to the public unless noted by an asterisk (*).

In the absence of a calendar editor, all calendar information for Outlook is downloaded directly from inforM's master calendar, located on the Internet. The editors regret that we are unable to accept calendar items at the Outlook office. However, submissions to inforM can be made by e-mail to: calendar@umail.umd.edu or by mailing the information to the inforM office at 2103 Stamp Student Union. To reach the inforM calendar editors by phone, call 314-8512.

Please note that the inforM calendar editors do not work for Outlook. They do, however, graciously welcome items for submission and input the information, ensuring a comprehensive calendar for both inforM and Outlook.

Listings highlighted in color have been designated as Diversity Year events by the Diversity Initiative Committee.

Frankenstein Visits Tawes Theatre

The theatre department presents the National Players production of Frankenstein on March 7-9 at 8 p.m. and Sunday, March 10 at 2 p.m. in Tawes Theatre. A special matinee will take place on March 7 at 9:45 a.m.

Frankenstein, by Victor Gialanella, is adapted from the novel by Mary Shelley. Michael Kramer directs this production of the National Players—the university's resident touring company. William Graham is set designer, Daniel MacLean Wagner, lighting designer and Rosemary Pardee, costume designer.

Sign interpretation is available March 9, audio description March 10, and an infrared listening system is available at all performances. Tawes Theatre is accessible to people with physical disabilities.

Individual tickets for Frankenstein are \$10 standard admission and \$7 for students and senior citizens. Tickets are available through mail order now or by phone charge beginning March 1. Call the University Theatre box office at 405-2201 (voice and TTY) weekdays from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m..



Molecular and Cell Biology Program

Seminar: "Examining Rhodopsin Folding and Assembly Through Expression of Polypeptide Fragments," Kevin Ridge, Center for Advanced Research in Biotechnology, 7:30 p.m., 1208 Zoology-Psychology. 5-6991.

Thursday, February 29

Mathematics Department Lecture: "A Nonlinear Galerkin Method in the Collocation Case," Lucia Dettori, UMB, 9:30 a.m., 3206 Math Bldg. 5-5108.

History & Philosophy of Science Colloquium: "Sisters, Please, I'd Rather Do It Myself: a Defense of Individualism in Epistemology," Louise Anthony, University of North Carolina, 4 p.m., Room 1117, Francis Scott Key. 5-5691.

Art Exhibition: "The Seventh Annual Prince George's County Juried Exhibition," 11 a.m.-6 p.m., Parents Association Gallery, Stamp Student Union. 4-8493.

Meteorology Department Lecture: "Radar Meteorology in the Marine Boundary Layer," Steve Rabin, Johns Hopkins, 3 p.m., 2106 Computer and Space Science Bldg. 5-5392.

Peer Computer Training Workshop: "Internet Technologies," 6-9 p.m., 3332 Computer Science Center. 5-2941.*

SKA Concert: The Mighty Mighty Bosstones, 7:30 p.m., Grand Ball Room, Stamp Student Union, \$7 with I.D., \$10 without at the Union ticket office.

University Theatre: "Othello" by William Shakespeare, 8 p.m., Tawes Theater, \$10 standard admission, \$7 students and seniors. 5-2201. (V/TTY)*

Friday, March 1

standard admission, \$7 students and seniors. 5-2201. (V/TTY)*

Saturday, March 2

University Theatre: "Othello" by William Shakespeare, 8 p.m., Tawes Theater, \$10 standard admission, \$7 students and seniors. 5-2201. (V/TTY)*

Monday, March 4

Peer Computer Training Workshop: "Introduction to HTML," 6-9 p.m., 3330 Computer Science Center. 5-2941.*

Tuesday, March 5

Physics Department Lecture: "Quantum Computation," David DiVincenzo, Quantum Computers Division, IBM, Thomas J. Watson Research Center NY, 4 p.m., 1410 Physics Bldg.

Peer Computer Training Workshop: "Intermediate Quattro Pro Windows," 6-9 p.m., 3330 Computer Science Center. 5-2941.*

CPR Class: learn adult CPR and choking skills, 6-9:30 p.m., 3100E University Health Center, \$10 for students, faculty and staff, must register in advance in 2118 University Health Center. 4-8132.*

Wednesday, March 6

National Archives Film Series: "Amelia Earhart," a movie in the American Experience series, noon, College Park Auditorium, National Archives. (202) 501-5000.

Molecular and Cell Biology Program Spring 1996 Series: "The Roles of the Ran GTPase Pathway in Nuclear Transport and Cell Cycle Control," Mary Dasso, NIH/NICHD, noon-1 p.m., 1208 Zoology-Psychology. 5-6991.

Transcending a World of Silence

Vernon Davis Promotes Understanding of Black, Deaf Culture

Undergirding the big, warm smile, you detect a gentle sensitivity in Vernon Davis. It is genuine—a by-product of his formative years.

Davis has been deaf since the age of 5-and-a-half. He says the other children picked on him because they didn't understand his deafness. But through those experiences, he "gained an appreciation and sensitivity for the black, deaf community and an understanding for all people with disabilities."

A member of the Cambridge Hall housekeeping staff, Davis has worked at the university for two years.



Photos by Scott Suchman

While most people on campus are accepting of his disability, occasionally a student will get nervous or flustered around him. His coworkers sometimes have trouble communicating with him, but eventually they find a way to get the message across—whether taking

the time to repeat things or write them out on paper.

Davis, whose deafness was caused by nerve damage, speaks fairly clearly and is skilled at reading lips. His mother had polio while she was pregnant with Davis and the medication she took damaged the nerves in his ears.

When he entered public school in Philadelphia, he was "mainstreamed" with the rest of the students. Before 1967, deaf children had to go to special schools. A special hearing resource teacher spent an hour each day helping Davis with his speech and classwork, and his regular teachers worked with him one-on-one as well.

"Since I was very good at lip reading, I had no problem working with teachers," Davis says.

He attended Gallaudet University from 1980-81, then returned to Philadelphia to study communications and sociology at a community college. Davis came to Maryland because the area offered more job opportunities. He would like to take classes here to improve his computer skills and may want to pursue a career in public relations or journalism.

As a member of the campus community, Davis says he feels strongly about promoting understanding of the deaf culture at the university. "I would like to see increased interaction between the deaf and hearing communities."

He thinks an interpreter education program is warranted. "There are so many students who want to learn sign language, we need to help people improve sign language skills and increase their understanding of deaf culture,"

Davis adds. He also encourages faculty and staff to become active in the Sign Language Club.

"The university should recruit deaf students aggressively, make them see that the campus is more accessible to their needs," he continues. "We need to make more accommodations for undergraduate deaf stu-



Vernon Davis helped create an organization for black, deaf people.

dents so they'll feel more comfortable on campus."

According to Disability Support Services, 13 deaf students are enrolled at the university and five deaf staff work on campus. "But we're very invisible," says Davis.

Visibility is an even worse problem for deaf blacks, he adds. Of the approximately 4.8 million deaf people in the United States, 340,000 or 6 to 7 percent, are black. "You don't see deaf black actors on TV or a deaf black Miss America," Davis says. "And even inside the hearing black community, there is a lack of understanding and appreciation for people with disabilities."

To combat the problem, he helped organize a group known as the Black Advocates which is committed to improving living standards for the black deaf community. Currently, Black Advocates has 17 chapters and 700 members nationwide. Another organization for deaf people, The National Association for the Deaf, did not admit blacks until 1965.

Black Advocates will be coming to campus to talk about black deaf culture on Monday, March 4 at 7 p.m. in room 2134 of the Stamp Student Union.

For more information or to exchange ideas, Davis's e-mail address is davisv@wam.umd.edu.

—JANET CHISMAR

For Your Interest

African-American Engineering Faculty Discussion

The Engineering Diversity Programs Committee is sponsoring a program today at 2 p.m. featuring four African-American engineering faculty members. The program, in Room 1202 of the Engineering Classroom Building, celebrates African-American Awareness Month.

Patricia Mead and Thomas Kashangaki, mechanical engineering; Michael Harris, chemical engineering; and Horace Russell, associate dean of the school will discuss their research, their choice of engineering as a career, their mentors and their academic experiences. The presentation will be followed by a question-and-answer segment and a reception for the panelists and guests.

For more information, contact LaRonda Miller at 405-3878.

Republic of Georgia in Transition

The Center for International Business Education and Research (CIBER) and the Management Education in Poland Project (MEP) are hosting a luncheon seminar, "The Republic of Georgia: Problems of Transition to a Market Economy," featuring professor Teimuraz Beridze. The Wednesday, March 6 seminar

takes place from noon to 2 p.m. in the Carriage House of the Rossborough Inn.

Beridze is a member of the department of economics at the University of Tbilisi in the Republic of Georgia and a university Fulbright Fellow.

R.S.V.P. by March 1 to 405-0397, or for more information, call Michelle Moore at the same number.

Women of Color Week

March 4-8 is the first annual Women of Color week. Each day a different event will occur highlighting the accomplishments and contributions to the campus community by women of color.

Events include a potluck dinner, a leadership and academic excellence awards program for students with disabilities, the annual Woman of Color award ceremony and a brown-bag lunch with music.

March 4 marks the beginning of a two-week display in the Stamp Union Showcase. It will feature photographs and biographies of the past winners of the Women of Color awards.

Public Affairs Helps WETA Drive

Stay tuned to see the 40 faculty, staff and students of the School of Public Affairs who will work on the telephone banks for WETA's fundrais-

ing drive on Friday, March 1. The crew will go on after the "News Hour with Jim Lehrer" through "Washington Week in Review" and finish up around midnight.

According to Susan Schwab, dean of Public Affairs, the idea came from faculty and staff at the school who wanted to contribute something to their respective communities.

Computer Science Programming Contest Kicks Off March 2

Students from Maryland, Virginia and Washington, D.C., high schools will compete in the sixth annual computer programming contest on March 2. The computer science department and the University College graduate school of management and technology will sponsor the event at the University College Conference Center.

Competing student teams will be required to solve complex mathematical problems using the Pascal programming language for the \$2,500 first prize.

The contest proves to be one of the most successful outreach programs used by the university and attracts some of the brightest students in the area to the university's computer science program, which U.S. News and World Report ranks as 12th best in the

nation.

Work and Place Explored

Richard Sennett, author and professor at New York University, will discuss "Work and Place" on Monday, March 4 at 6:30 p.m. in the auditorium of the School of Architecture Building. The event is part of the school's Spring 1995 lecture series.

Sennett is well known for his writings on the city. He has been a fellow at the Institute for Advanced Studies at Princeton University and is also a fellow of the Guggenheim Foundation.

His writings, "The Fall of Public Man" and "The Conscience of the Eye" examine the way in which cities are conceived and the social relations of public space.

For more information, contact Matthew Bell at 405-6301.

Libraries March into Women's History Month

McKeldin and Hornbake Libraries will be exhibiting a variety of Women's Studies resources in their lobbies beginning March 1 and continuing through the end of the month. The display will be available during regular library hours.